

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

**Please amend the claims as follows:**

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for performing image processing on image data comprising ~~the steps of~~:  
generating face region information to identify the face region from said image data;  
and  
performing noise reduction on the face region of said image data based on said face region information.
2. (Original) A digital camera comprising:  
image processing means for performing image processing including contour correction on a shot image;  
face region identification means for analyzing an image after contour correction to generate face region information to identify the face region;  
noise reduction means for performing noise reduction on the face region of the image after contour correction based on said face region information;  
photographing mode determination means for determining the photographing mode of said shot image; and  
control means for operating said face region identifying means and said noise reduction means depending on said photographing mode.
3. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 2, wherein said photography mode determination means determines said photography mode based on a mode selection signal from the photography mode switch on the camera main body.
4. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 2, wherein said control means operates said face region identifying means and said noise reduction means based on a portrait mode determined by said photography mode determination means.
5. (Currently Amended) The digital camera according to claim 2 ~~or 4~~, wherein said control means operates said face region identifying means and said noise reduction means based on a high-speed photography mode determined by said photography mode

6. (Original) An image processing program for performing image processing on image data, said program causing a computer to serve as means for generating face region information to identify the face region from said image data and means for performing noise reduction on the face region of the image data.

7. (New) The digital camera according to claim 4, wherein said control means operates said face region identifying means and said noise reduction means based on a high-speed photography mode determined by said photography mode determination means.